**Child Find**

The Child Find mandate, included in the IDEA, requires schools to seek out, identify, and evaluate all

youth (ages 3–22) with disabilities, whether or not they are homeless or enrolled in public or private

school, regardless of the severity of their disability. In addition, Child Find responsibilities apply to students who are migrants, ELs, and those in correctional facilities (see 34 CFR § 300.111 for General

Child Find regulations; 34 CFR §. 300.131 for child find regulations regarding parentally placed

private school children with disabilities).

Due to the impact of an educational disability, it is important that effective, ongoing efforts are made

to inform the public of the Child Find responsibilities placed upon school districts to locate all children who may need special services. So, to achieve the overall goal of locating and effectively serving all children in Obion County with potential disabilities that could impact learning, we have developed a comprehensive approach that encompasses the following three components:

1. Child Find: Each district is encouraged to designate a Child Find coordinator whose duties include the development and implementation of effective, ongoing child find efforts within all the schools operated by the district.

* Obion County Schools Child Find Coordinator: Alisha Hedge, Special Education Supervisor

2. Interagency Cooperation: Staff in other agencies which serve children often have opportunities to interact with children and their families and gain insights that may not occur within the local school setting. Districts are encouraged to develop partnerships with all agencies in their geographic region which serve children.

* Interagency cooperation includes: homeless shelters, migrant tutor or recruiters, refugee resettlement agencies, preschools, private schools and homeschool collaboratives, or residential settings
* Title X, McKinney-Vento Homeless Act states, “The IDEA requires that homeless preschoolers and all homeless children be included in the ‘Child Find’ process for early identification of special education needs. It is recommended that, when possible, the eligibility process for identifying special needs be expedited to avoid delays in services provided to eligible children caused by frequent mobility.”

3. Public Awareness: Effective school screening programs and collaborative working relationships with other agencies serving children will result in many children who have special needs being identified; however, these efforts may still miss some children who need services. Some public awareness tools and strategies used for Obion County Schools include:

* Obion County Schools partners with all local childcare facilities to provide an explanation of service we can provide for children with disabilities. A flier also goes home with families about upcoming enrollment opportunities in our pre-k programs.
* TEIS (Tennessee Early Intervention Services) partners with Obion County Schools to help families who have children with disabilities receive testing and placement by the third birthday.
* Letters to parents/legal guardians which can be translated/interpreted if needed.
* Newspaper and radio announcements about upcoming registration that includes information about who to contact if a child is suspected of having a disability. This also includes information about our Pre-K and 619 Preschool classes.
* Promethean is a local organization that helps underprivileged children, especially those with a suspected disability get the help they need. We update an agreement with them yearly. They are aware of the child find procedures that we follow.
* We also have a yearly MOU with the sheriff’s’ department for incarcerated youth who may need special education services.
* RTI is used to help us identify students with a suspected disability.
* Child Find information is posted on our district website in the special education information.